

VZCZCXRO4874

PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN
RUEHLZ RUEHNEH RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHRS RUEHSL RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHAH #1037 2300550
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 180550Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3299
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5544
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3264
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3129
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3787
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3800

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001037

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TURKMEN GOVERNMENT AGREES TO MOVE FORWARD ON
ANNUAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 80747

11. (SBU) On August 14, Post received the Turkmenistan Foreign Ministry's response to reftel letter and non-paper proposing the establishment of regular bilateral policy consultations. In its response, "the Turkmen side consent(ed) to arranging the high-level consultations between Turkmenistan and the United States" as proposed in reftel.

12. (SBU) COMMENT: Now the the Turkmen Government has formally given the green light to annual bilateral consultations along the lines we proposed, the ball is back in our court to give substance and a timetable to the process. Based on some other countries' experiences with the Turkmen in such fora, left to their own devices, the Turkmen would likely be satisfied with form over substance. END COMMENT.

MILES